

BALTIMORE NEWS AMERICAN
20 AUGUST 1971LOUIS AZRAEL SAYS:

Reports From the 'Other CIA'

THE LETTERS CIA stand, of course, for Central Intelligence Agency. But there is also another CIA who letters stand for Columnist's Information Assistants. Its volunteer agents report facts, learned in the course of their normal activities, which they believe of interest to the public.

Some recent reports are...

"THE STATE of Maryland is taking part in five lawsuits against big companies, charging them with fixing prices in violation of federal anti-trust laws," a legal member of the "other CIA" reported.

"The suits are against manufacturers of master locks and keys, hospital furnishings, anti-pollution control devices, diuretics and ampicillin, which is a synthetic substitute for penicillin.

"The litigation was started by the federal government but Maryland joined in because its departments bought materials from these companies."

AN ARCHITECT, volunteering as another CIA man, commented...

"I read an article written by Larry Reich, head of the city's Planning Department, and some of it struck me so forcibly that I think more people out to read it."

He cited this excerpt:

"Ironically, except for the cities of Vietnam, no nation's cities have suffered as much from the war than our own. Vietnam's cities suffered the ravages of war; ours the ravages of a war economy."

And this excerpt:

"Both white politicians and black politicians are guilty of seeking to promote their power by fomenting antagonism between the inner city and its surrounding metropolitan area. White politicians play on the racial fears of their constituencies while black politicians welcome the political power they derive from an ever-increasing black majority in our cities.

"What both seem to forget is that to have control over a defunct city — black or white — is to have control over an empty bag."

A PUBLIC OFFICIAL, greatly interested in gambling laws, reported...

"In view of all the talk about permitting a state lottery in Maryland, what's happening in New York should be called to attention.

"The state lottery there is producing so much less revenue than was expected that they're starting lottery bargain sales.

"At present, lottery tickets sell for a dollar and there is one drawing each month. Now they are planning to sell the tickets for 50 cents and have a drawing each week.

"That will make New York's system very much

like New Jersey's which has been far more successful so far."

A GAS AND ELECTRIC CO. agent reported on the company's experiment in running its own postal service, rather than continuing to depend on U. S. mail.

Last June the company stopped sending out bills by mail. It started to deliver them with its own employees. The object was two-fold: to reduce costs (8-cent mail rate had just taken effect) and to improve service.

The system is an experiment and after three months company officials still don't know if it will be permanent. Questionnaires, delivered with the bills, indicate that most customers like the new method. But the questioning is still under way.

Final decision probably will be made near the end of the year.

A LEGAL AGENT REPORTS...

"Maryland courts seem to have a hard time defining the word 'accident.'"

"During an argument between a construction foreman and his supervisor, the supervisor clenched his fist and said in effect, 'I'm running this job; not you.' The foreman promptly had paralysis of the vocal cords and had to spend three weeks in a hospital.

"He filed a claim for workmen's compensation, arguing that his ailment was the result of an industrial accident. The Workmen's Compensation Commission granted the claim.

The employer appealed and a lower court decided there had been no accident.

The man appealed and the higher court ruled the injury was caused by an industrial accident."